

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

PPDC AZM Transition Issues Workgroup

Report-Out for PPDC Meeting
May 9, 2007

Today's report-out includes:

- Overview of AZM decision
- Formation of workgroup
- Mission statement
- Progress to-date
- Next steps

When was and why has this workgroup been formed?

- November 2006
 - EPA announced decision to phase-out Azinphos methyl (AZM)
 - Jim Jones announced the formation of a PPDC Workgroup on Transition Issues to help EPA and USDA carry out the planned AZM phase-out

Overview of AZM decision:

- November 16, 2006 -- EPA issued final decision on AZM to phase-out remaining uses by September 30, 2012 – according to this schedule:
 - By September 30, 2007, phase out:
 - Brussels sprouts
 - Nursery stock
 - By October 30, 2009, phase out:
 - Almonds
 - Pistachios
 - Walnuts

Overview of AZM decision (continued):

- AZM phase-out schedule (continued):

- By September 30, 2012, phase out:

- Apples
- Blueberries
- Cherries
- Parsley
- Pears

All other uses have been voluntarily cancelled by the manufacturer.

Overview of AZM decision (continued):

- EPA final AZM decision AZM includes implementation of mitigation measures during phase-out:
 - Mandatory ratcheting down of annual application rates
 - Larger buffer zones around water bodies
 - Buffers around houses and other occupied structures

Overview of AZM decision (continued):

- Phase-out mitigation measures (continued):
 - Gradual elimination of the few remaining aerial applications
 - Post-application worker stewardship program

Overview of AZM decision (continued):

- EPA final AZM decision includes “transition to alternatives” component:
 - Growers of AZM crop uses expected to successfully transition to available safer alternative pesticides
 - To facilitate transition, hold periodic meetings during phase-out to discuss available alternatives and newer/pipeline pesticides
 - EPA and USDA lead
 - Discuss at PPDC meetings

What are the affiliations of workgroup members?

- Co-chairs are EPA (Rick Keigwin) and USDA (Allen Jennings)
- Workgroup members include:
 - Agriculture/farmer representatives
 - Environmental/consumer/farmworker representatives
 - Academia/public health/public foundation representatives
 - Food processor/distributor representative
 - Pesticide companies/trade association representatives
 - Cal-DPR representative
 - NAFTA partners from Canada's PMRA are observers

*Workgroup includes several members of the PPDC

What is the workgroup's "charge"?

- Provide advice, through PPDC, to EPA and USDA on implementation EPA decision to phase-out remaining AZM uses, with the following objectives and goals:
 - Identifying framework for reasonable transition
 - Identifying ways to improve understanding of critical grower needs and perspectives of all stakeholders regarding the transition

What is the workgroup's "charge"?

- Workgroup objectives and goals (continued):
 - Identifying programs/mechanisms to provide reduced-risk pest management strategies and techniques to growers
 - Recommending ways to assist growers in their good faith efforts as they try AZM alternatives and feasible, cost-effective techniques

What is the workgroup's "charge"?

- Workgroup objectives and goals (continued):
 - Fostering transparency and public participation in decision-making
 - Providing process recommendations to ensure that AZM transition progress is tracked and assessed and reported back to PPDC

What is the workgroup NOT charged with?

- Revisiting the EPA final AZM decision
- Discussing rationale for AZM decision
- Discussing pending litigation

What has the workgroup accomplished thus far?

- Workgroup (public) meeting held March 6, 2007
- Day of brainstorming resulted in rough outline of basic transition strategy with components addressing four areas of concern:
 - Trade
 - Regulatory issues
 - Research and implementation
 - Impact assessment (to include economics, resistance management, sustainability...)

What has the workgroup accomplished thus far?

- Two groups volunteered to draft case-studies:
 - Ohio parsley
 - Washington apples
- Two short workgroup teleconferences held along with many e-mail-exchanges
- Two matrices under development:
 - Crop/alternate approaches to pest management matrix
 - Regulatory matrix

What is the status of the matrices and case-studies?

- Draft matrices in workgroup review
- Draft case-studies being revised after first-round review/comment

What does the Ohio parsley case-study currently consist of?

- General cropping information
- Production practices
- Crop value
- Pest identification
- Potential pest management tools and cultural practices
- Tasks
- Timelines

What other input is anticipated into the Ohio parsley case-study?

- Cost, availability, review status, effectiveness of alternate pest management tools
- Identification of barriers of adoption
- Practical realities and impacts of alternate approaches
- Necessary activities
- Education and outreach program

What does the Washington apples case-study include?

- Focuses on production of fresh market apples in Washington State
- Builds on adoption of AZM replacement technologies already occurring within segment of apple industry
- Articulates understanding of benefits and problems faced by growers

What does the Washington apples case-study include?

- Identifies current available potential alternatives
- Discusses needed research

What are other expectations of the Washington apples case-study?

- Transition evaluation through measurement of:
 - Crop protection
 - Conservation of beneficials
 - Economics
 - Progress toward harmonized export markets
 - Farm worker and grower perceptions

What are workgroup's next steps?

- Hold another workgroup meeting to:
 - Flesh out case-studies
 - Further develop matrices
 - Work to reach consensus on components, and contents of, and plan for, transition strategies
- Present case-studies and propose advice (for USDA and EPA) to PPDC

Questions?

Thank you